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REMARKS

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the following remarks. Claims 39-102 and 104 are pending, with claims 39, 67, 83, 84, 92, 100-102, and 104 being independent. Claim 103 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, claim 104 has been added, and claims 39-49, 51-54, 64-68, 70, 72-74, 80-84, 90-92, and 98-102 have been amended. Support for the amendments and the new claim may be found in Applicants' specification at, for example, page 17, line 3 through page 28, line 2 referring to Figs. 5-7. No new matter has been added.

Independent claims 39, 67, 83, 84, 92, and 100-102, along with their dependent claims 40-66, 68-82, 85-91, and 93-99 have been rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Buist (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,282). Applicants have cancelled claim 103 without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 103 moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claim 103 in this or in a continuing application at a future date. In addition, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 39-102 because Buist fails to describe or suggest the features of independent claims 39, 67, 83, 84, 92, and 100-102, as described below.

For example, as amended, independent claim 39 recites, *inter alia*, conditioned on a received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds, providing information based on the received alert feed to a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with a user associated with the received alert feed, and determining, using the first electronic device, whether the received alert feed is a particular alert feed based on the information provided to the first electronic device. Claim 39 also recites, *inter alia*, conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of general alert feeds, providing information based on the received alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, and determining, using the second electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the second electronic device, where the second electronic device is different from the first electronic device. Applicants respectfully submit that Buist does not describe or suggest these features.

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In particular, Buist describes a stock system that alerts a user to movements in stock price according to user-defined preferences. See Buist at col. 23, lines 19-21. For example, a server monitors stock price data and, if an alert condition occurs, sends an alert including stock information to a user's application. See Buist at col. 23, lines 41-50. The stock system of Buist also may include a news server that monitors news related to stocks and provides alerts related to stock news to the user's application. See Buist at col. 24, lines 36-55. As such, the system of Buist monitors stock events relevant to the general public and provides alerts based on the generally-relevant stock events to user's of the stock system. Accordingly, Buist fails to describe or suggest performing any processes conditioned on a received alert feed <u>corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user</u> because Buist fails to describe or suggest user-specific alert feeds that are associated with an event specific to a particular user. For example, a general alert feed may be a stock or news alert feed that provides an alert in response to an event related to many users (e.g., a change in a stock price; occurrence of a newsworthy event; etc.) and is of general interest to many people. In contrast, a user-specific alert feed may include an electronic mail alert feed that provides an alert in response to a particular user receiving an electronic mail message and is of specific interest to the particular user. Buist does not describe or suggest such user-specific alert feeds. Therefore, Buist fails to describe or suggest, conditioned on a received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds, providing information based on the received alert feed to a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with a user associated with the received alert feed, and determining, using the first electronic device, whether the received alert feed is a particular alert feed based on the information provided to the first electronic device, as recited in amended independent claim 39.

Furthermore, at least because Buist fails to describe or suggest providing information based on the received alert feed to a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with a user associated with the received alert feed, Buist also fails to describes or suggest, conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users, providing information based on the received alert feed to <u>a second electronic device that is different from the first electronic device and assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds</u>. Thus, Buist

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also fails to describe or suggest, conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of general alert feeds, providing information based on the received alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, and determining, using the second electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the second electronic device, where the second electronic device is different from the first electronic device, as also recited in amended independent claim 39.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 39 and claims 40-66 depending therefrom.

Independent claims 67 and 83, although different in scope from independent claim 39 and each other, recite features similar to those recited in independent claim 39, but do so in the context of a computer program stored on a computer readable medium and a system. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 39, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 67 and 83, along with claims 68-82 that depend from claim 67.

As amended, independent claim 84 recites, *inter alia*, conditioned on a detected alert feed · corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds, providing information based on the detected alert feed to a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with a user associated with the detected alert feed, and determining, using the first electronic device, whether a state change at a remote server is a particular state change at a particular remote server based on the information provided to the first electronic device. Independent claim 84 also recites, *inter alia*, conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of general alert feeds, providing information based on the detected alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, and determining, using the second electronic device, whether the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on the information provided to the second electronic device, where the second electronic device is different from the first electronic device.

As discussed above with respect to independent claim 39, Buist fails to describe or suggest performing any processes conditioned on a received alert feed <u>corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a</u>

<u>particular user</u> and providing information based on the received alert feed to <u>a second electronic</u> <u>device that is different from the first electronic device and assigned to process alerts associated</u> <u>with general alert feeds</u>. Therefore, Buist also fails to describe or suggest, conditioned on a detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds, providing information based on the detected alert feed to a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with a user associated with the detected alert feed, and determining, using the first electronic device, whether a state change at a remote server is a particular state change at a particular remote server based on the information provided to the first electronic device, as recited in amended independent claim 84.

Furthermore, Buist also fails to describe or suggest, conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of general alert feeds, providing information based on the detected alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, and determining, using the second electronic device, whether the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on the information provided to the second electronic device, where the second electronic device is different from the first electronic device, as also recited in amended independent claim 84.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 84 and claims 85-91 depending therefrom.

Independent claims 92 and 100, although different in scope from independent claim 84 and each other, recite features similar to those recited in independent claim 84, but do so in the context of a computer program stored on a computer readable medium and a system. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 84, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 92 and 100, along with claims 93-99 that depend from claim 92.

As amended, independent claim 101 recites, *inter alia*, a first alert multiplexor that is configured to receive a first user profile from a profile server and send a first alert request to a first alert gate requesting that the first alert gate send the first alert multiplexor an alert notification when the first alert gate detects an alert feed corresponding to a user-specific alert associated with an event specific to a particular user and a second alert multiplexor that is configured to receive a second user profile from a profile server and send a second alert request

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to a second alert gate requesting that a second alert gate send the second alert multiplexor an alert notification when the second alert gate detects an alert feed corresponding to a general alert that is a particular type of alert processed the second alert multiplexor.

As discussed above with respect to independent claim 39, Buist fails to describe or suggest performing any processes conditioned on a received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and providing information based on the received alert feed to a second electronic device that is different from the first electronic device and assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds. Therefore, Buist also fails to describe or suggest a first alert multiplexor that is configured to receive a first user profile from a profile server and send a first alert request to a first alert gate requesting that the first alert gate send the first alert multiplexor an alert notification when the first alert gate detects an alert feed corresponding to a user-specific alert associated with an event specific to a particular user and a second alert multiplexor that is configured to receive a second user profile from a profile server and send a second alert request to a second alert gate requesting that a second alert gate send the second alert multiplexor an alert notification when the second alert gate detects an alert feed corresponding to a general alert that is a particular type of alert processed the second alert multiplexor, as recited in amended independent claim 101.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 101.

As amended, independent claim 102 recites, *inter alia*, monitoring receipt of multiple alert feeds including receipt of alert feeds corresponding to multiple alerts of interest including an electronic mail alert and a stock alert and receipt of at least one additional alert feed.

As discussed above with respect to independent claim 39, Buist fails to describe or suggest performing any processes conditioned on a received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user. Therefore, Buist also fails to describe or suggest monitoring receipt of multiple alert feeds including receipt of alert feeds corresponding to multiple alerts of interest including an electronic mail alert and a stock alert and receipt of at least one additional alert feed, as recited in amended independent claim 102.

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For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 102.

New independent claim 104 recites many features that are not described or suggested by Buist. For example, new independent claim 104 recites, *inter alia*, providing an alert multiplexor assigned to a particular instant messaging user with information indicating a user-specific alert that the particular instant messaging user is interested in receiving, where the user-specific alert is associated with a first event specific to the particular instant messaging user.

As discussed above with respect to independent claim 39, Buist fails to describe or suggest performing any processes conditioned on a received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user. Therefore, Buist also fails to describe or suggest providing an alert multiplexor assigned to a particular instant messaging user with information indicating a user-specific alert that the particular instant messaging user is interested in receiving, where the user-specific alert is associated with a first event specific to the particular instant messaging user, as recited in new independent claim 104.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 104 is allowable.

Applicants note that the Office action fails to specifically address the features recited in independent claims 100-102. Instead, the Office action includes a statement that these claims "have similar limitations as claims 39-67, 83-84 and 92 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons." See Office action of May 2, 2007 at page 8. Applicants submit that independent claims 100-102 and new independent claim 104 recite features that differ from the features of claims 39-67, 83-84 and 92 and respectfully request that the Examiner consider the features of independent claims 100-102 and 104 and specifically address these features.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the
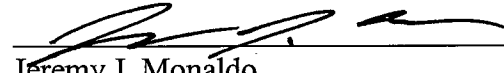
amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim

prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:___ 8/2/2007 ___   _____
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